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Pembroke Rural District Council

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1963

[redacted]

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr.Chairman, Mrs.Wirbey and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present to you the Annual Report of the health of the district for 1963. The health of your district during the year 1963 has been good, the infant mortality and death rates being lower than those for the County and for the country as a whole.

Water Supply

This has been a problem in this district for years. The supply problem now rests with the Pembrokeshire Water Board and although this problem is still with us we hope that the Board will do everything possible to solve it soon. As previously, the supply to the Twycross/New Hedges area has caused the most trouble.

Housing

Increased housing will be required now that work has commenced on the Regent Oil Refinery and the necessary plans are being made. In addition, progress is still being made with the aid of the standard and discretionary grants to bring dwellings up to a better standard.

Again I would like to emphasize how important a part the Public Health Inspector plays in the maintenance of the conditions suitable for healthy living.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Council, and its Officers for their continued courtesy and co-operation and to include in this my thanks to my clerk for all her help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. M. Bowen

PHYLLIS M.BOWEN, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.C.H.

The Clinic,
Tenby.

Tel: 2180

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S

Resident Population (Registrar General's Estimate)....1963....

....,6,240.....

	Pembroke R.D.1963	Pembroke R.D.1962	County of Pembroke	England & Wales
Live Births	119	84		
Live Birth Rate (per 1,000 pop.)	19.07	13.5	19.18	18.2
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of Total Live Births	.84	7.14		
Still Births	1	1		
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	8.33	11.8	19.45	17.3
Total Live and Still Births	120	85		
Infant Deaths(Deaths under 1 year)	1	1		
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)				
- total	8.40	11.9	21.58	20.9
- legitimate	8.47	12.85		
- illegitimate	nil	nil		
Neo-natal Mortality Rate(Deaths under 1 month)(per 1,000 Live Births)	nil	11.9	13.41	14.2
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate(Deaths under 1 week)(per 1,000 Live Births)	nil	11.9	11.66	
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week and Still Births Combined) (per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	8.33	23.5	30.89	

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	Pembroke R.D.1963	Pembroke R.D.1962	County of Pembroke	England & Wales
Maternal Deaths	nil	nil		
Maternal Mortality Rate(per 1,000 Live and Still Births)	nil	nil	nil	0.28

The infant mortality rate shows a decrease on last year's figure and remains lower than the rate for both the County and the whole of England and Wales. There was only one death of an infant aged under one year and this occurred at the age of eight months from congenital malformation.

Deaths	69	88		
Death Rate(per 1,000 pop.)	11.05	14.1	12.2	12.2

The general death rate also shows a decrease on last year's figure. Heart disease accounted for 26 of the total of 69 deaths and of the 9 deaths from malignant disease 1 was due to cancer of the lung. Approximately 72.5% of the total number of deaths occurred in persons aged over 70 years, and of these, 40% occurred in persons aged over 80 years.

Causes of death	Male	Female
TOTAL (All causes)	40	29
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	2	1
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus,	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	5
Coronary disease, angina,	7	6
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1
Other heart disease	6	6
Other circulatory disease	6	-
Bronchitis	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
Congenital malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
All other accidents	1	-

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

74 Measles
35 Scarlet Fever
5 Pneumonia
10 Suspected Food Poisoning

TUBERCULOSIS

There were again no deaths from tuberculosis this year and neither were any new cases notified.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS

B.C.G. Vaccination B.C.G. Vaccination of contacts and school leavers continues to be carried out in the district. During the year 1962 91 school leavers (i.e. pupils aged thirteen years and over) were skin tested and of these, 83 required vaccination. Dr.D.Llewelyn Davies, the Chest Physician, also vaccinates contacts at the Chest Clinic.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

The Mobile Unit of the Mass Radiography Service visited the Borough of Pembroke 10 times during the year. The total number of people who availed themselves of this service was 475, and this figure would include residents in the neighbouring rural areas although separate figures are not available.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus are carried out by the local practitioners and at the clinics. The local practitioners are paid by the County Council for records received each quarter by your Medical Officer. During 1963 the following records were received:-

Vaccinations Primary	30	Re-vaccinations	48
Diphtheria Immunisations	84	Re-inforcing Injections	42
Whooping Cough Immunisations	84	Tetanus Immunisations	84

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The use of oral vaccine has been found to be very satisfactory, particularly for infants, but the response from the 15-25 age group is still poor.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47:- Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

No action was necessary under this section.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1963

WATER SUPPLY

General Report

The transfer of functions of the water undertaking to the Pembrokeshire Water Board took place as from June 1st, together with the appropriate employees. The change-over was carried out smoothly and in no way affected the service to the public. As far as is known, there were no serious shortages in the district during the summer.

Waterworks and Distribution Mains
Schemes in Progress
Wogaston-Speculation-Hundleton Extension

Work was completed on this extension, including the pumping station, enabling a much needed supply being afforded to a scattered agricultural community as well as augmenting the Hundleton Village local supply, prior to the provision of a village Sewerage Scheme.

SEWERAGE

Jameston Village

The remaining 10 council bungalows and 7 private properties were connected to the public sewer during the year.

Schemes in Progress

Angle Village

This scheme was commenced during March. All main sewers and manholes were completed before the end of the year and work was in progress at the treatment works and pumping stations. It was anticipated that the scheme would be completed during the following summer.

St. Florence Village

The contractors commenced work on this scheme during October and it was anticipated that the works would be completed within eighteen months.

Lydstep

Work on this scheme was expeditiously carried out, commencement being during June and completion in October. Arrangements were made to connect the various private properties and to commence the required sampling at the treatment works.

General Progress

Considerable discussion took place on the need to provide public sewers in the various villages, and it was agreed to carry out a comprehensive scheme to include all villages during the next five years or so. During October, approval was given to accept a tender for Rhoscrowther Village, and in December, unconditional planning consent was received in respect of the Broadfield and Twycross Sewerage Scheme.

Progress was also made with regard to Castlemartin Village and final details of the scheme were forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government at the end of the year.

Also under active consideration were schemes for Freshwater East and Lawrenny, both of which would be required to include for considerable holiday and private development in the near future.

Preparatory work was also commenced on the proposed scheme for Cosheston Village, and a site was provisionally selected for the disposal works.

HOUSING

Although there were only 4 new council houses completed during the year, the following sites were commenced.

Hundleton	-	4 bungalows
Lamphey	-	14 bungalows
Cosheston	-	4 bungalows

However, it was agreed to hold a special meeting to consider the long term future housing programme, notwithstanding proposals to to build at Anglc, Penally, Castlemartin, Carew and Hundleton.

Negotiations also proceeded with a view to acquiring sufficient land for housing in Hundleton to cater for the expected demand from industrial workers coming into the district.

A total of 22 new private houses were completed and a further 27 were under construction at the end of the year.

Housing Improvement Grants (Discretionary)

20 applications were received for discretionary grants and a further 8 in respect of standard grants. Altogether, 18 dwellings were so modernised during the year.

Unfit Houses

A total of 3 houses were closed during the year.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

Total No. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	35
No. of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925 & 1932 included in previous column.	-
No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	13
No. of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation (exclusive of those in previous column).	20
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	1

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING YEAR

Housing Act, 1936. Sections 9,10, & 16.
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs -

No. of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices (By Owners.) -

Public Health Acts.
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 14

No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices. 8

Housing Act, 1936.Sections 11 & 13.
No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made. -

No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders. -

Housing Act, 1936. Section 12.
No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made. -

HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV - OVERCROWDING

No. of dwelling houses overcrowded at end of year. not known

No. of families dwelling therein. "

No. of persons dwelling therein. "

No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during year. "

No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during year. 3

No. of persons concerned in such cases. 11

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

The following report was prepared for and accepted by the Council during the year.

"The introduction of these new regulations should provide the means to give effect to the Government's long standing intention to ensure that all home-killed meat is inspected before it leaves the slaughterhouse. One of the main reasons why this is not at present possible is that an unfair burden of the cost falls on some authorities. The main provisions are as follows:-

(a) Meat at slaughterhouses must be inspected.

(b) Meat must not be removed from a slaughter-house until it has been inspected.

(c) Meat inspected and passed as fit for human consumption must be marked.

(d) Local authorities may charge for the inspection.

(e) The minimum period of notice of slaughter is extended from 3 hours to 24 hours.

To ensure 100% inspection, local authorities are urged to make arrangements with neighbouring authorities or to secure the services of local veterinary surgeons. In exceptional circumstances, veterinary officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food may be able to assist, the present charge being at the rate of 18/9d.per half hour plus travelling expenses.

Local Authorities may charge for inspections at rates not exceeding 2/6d. per bullock, 9d. per calf or pig, and 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat. Where charges are made, such charges must be published in a local newspaper. It is also open to Authorities to negotiate special contracts with a regular trader on a basis which would not exceed the published scale of charges.

There is at present only one slaughterhouse in the district and slaughtering is normally confined to twodays per week. Should the Council decide to make a charge for inspections, the current estimated charge would be between £30 and £40 per annum.

As long as the Council approves, written notice of regular slaughter on certain days each week is regarded as adequate compliance with the requirement of notice of slaughter.

The effect of the regulations to the Council is that an arrangement must be made to ensure complete inspection during my absence or inability to carry out meat inspection duties."

As from October, 1963, a 100% inspection was carried out and all meat stamped in accordance with the Regulations.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	133	-	36	1,026	186	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis						
Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	60	-	-	42	-	-
Tuberculosis only	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

It has now become accepted that there is a steadily increasing amount of refuse being collected in the country and this is equally true for the Rural District.

Furthermore, adequate recompense and better working conditions for refuse collectors should be the aim of all responsible for this important public service.

Indeed, there is little doubt that further staff will soon be required to cope with the demands on the service, particularly during the summer months.

The problem of litter is becoming serious, particularly near the beaches and on lay-bys, and to this end the Council decided to provide a number of paper sack litter holders for general use in the district.

It is hoped that further holders will be provided

and this method eventually adopted for the normal refuse collection service.

RODENT CONTROL

This self-supporting service continued to expand and treatments were regularly carried out on housing sites, sewers and refuse tips. As in previous years, a large proportion of farms in the district renewed their contracts with the Council.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Condemned Food

No food was condemned during the year.

CARAVANS AND TENTS

Undoubtedly the greatest public health problem was the extensive caravanning and camping throughout the district, and in particular the congestion and saturation in the parishes of St.Mary out Liberty and Penally. Apart from sites where planning appeals were still pending, or negotiations being carried on, the caravan sites were well operated. However, a number of operators took advantage of the loopholes in the 1936 Public Health Act and consequently established tented camping sites on their land, often close to and sharing the amenities of the established caravan sites.

Altogether a total of 26 caravan sites were operating under licence, allowing for a total of 1,184 caravans.

In addition, there were several hundred tents, many of which were sited on or near these caravan sites.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspect-ions	Notices	Prosc-utions
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	14	9	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	15	10	-	-

J.E.CRIDDLE,

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.